AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] Presently, some solutions have been designed to help accommodate these sorts of limitations. For example, computer systems on a Local or Wide Area Network (LAN, or WAN) often have access to network resources that can include use of a network storage device, or processing resources on another network computer. These solutions, however, generally require that the computer [[the]] user wishes to use on the respective network communicate using a specific communication protocol (whether an application-specific, an operating system-specific, or a network communication protocol, etc.). In addition, these methods do not provide relief to computer systems that have many devices or applications installed on the machine.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Figure 3 illustrates an example flow chart of a method for routing a message from a sending computer system to a receiving computer system such that a routing path for the message can be changed before the message reaches the receiving computer system; [[and]]

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] Figure 4 illustrates an example flow chart for routing a message with particular attention to the client, message-creation perspective; and

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] The content portion 110 can represent the nature of the object requests, as well as any text input by a user that could be included in any ordinary message. For example, the content portion 110 could include electronic mail text sent between users, can include raw data of a report generated in a program, and can include a set of instructions to be processed at another computer on raw data contained in the message. As will be described in the specification and claims, the content 110 may also serve as a basis for routing decisions by the sending computer system [[110]] 100 and any intermediate router.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] In response to an indication that message 105 will be sent (e.g., a user selects to send message 105), the sending computer system 100 can reference a set of instructions in a referral cache 102. The set of instructions can be, for example, any number of routing instructions that can be understood in a network routing environment such as, for example, the MICROSOFT® Web Services Enhancements (WSE) used in the MICROSOFT® .NET® environment. The referral cache 102 can be a centralized database of router identities (e.g., router 112, 120, etc.) that is administered by a network administrator and stored [[locnally]] locally at the computer system 100, or can be a list of routers compiled by the computer system 100 over the course of several successful send and receive sequences with other computer systems (e.g., receiving computer system 160).

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] Initially, a client creates a message 201 at a computer system (e.g., "Sending Computer System" 200). In a preferred embodiment, the message 201 is created using a markup language, such as XML. Markup languages such as XML are particularly useful for practice with the present invention since they can treat a message as several discrete, readily-identifiable portions. These message portions can be as general as metadata in a document header, or text in [[a]] content portions, and as functional as a set of instructions in a defined, document object. These message portions can include data, such as, for example, metadata in a message header (e.g., in a SOAP header) or the contents of a message payload (e.g., in a SOAP body).

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] When "Router C" 240 receives message 203, "Router C" 240 first identifies that it is the intended recipient of the message 203, by identifying that "C" appears as the "top-most" (or next in sequence) router on the router list 216. After identifying that "Router C" 240 is the correct recipient of message 203, "Router C" 240 also performs one or more operations on the message 203 through its own comparison module. For example, "Router C" 240 includes "Comparison Module" 245 that can also include its own instructions in the form of a "Referral Cache" 247. Notably, "Router C's" [[230]] 240 comparison module 245 will perform the one or more

operations independent of whatever has been done by any other intermediate routers (e.g., "Router A"). This independence is one way in which the present invention provides significant routing flexibility.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] When "Receiving Computer System" 260 receives message 204 from "Router C" 240, the "Receiving Computer System" 260 first identifies whether it is the appropriate recipient of the message 204. To do so, the "Receiving Computer System" 260 implements one or more modules that are similar to those described for the "Sending Computer System" 200 and the intermediate routers. Accordingly, the "Receiving Computer System" 260 identifies the "top-most" router on the router list 222, and identifies that "Ultimate ID" on router list 222 matches "Ultimate ID" 265 at the "Receiving Computer System" 260. Once the "Receiving Computer System" 260 identifies that it is the appropriate recipient of the message [[240]] 204, the "Receiving Computer System" accepts the content, as shown in item 267.

Please replace paragraph [0054] with the following amended paragraph:

[0054] Finally, the method of Figure 4 comprises an act 440 of sending the message [[440]] 201. Act 440 includes sending the message to a first router included in the modified router list. Accordingly, after the client has created the message 201, and the sending computer system 200 has reviewed the router list 210 and modified the router list if appropriate, the sending computer system 200 can then relay the message to the "top-most" router on the modified router list 211. As illustrated in Figure 2, the modified router list 211 identifies "A" as the next most router, and so the sending computer system 200 relays message 202 to "Router A" 230 before the message 202 reaches the receiving computer system 260 identified by "Ultimate ID" 265.